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Letter dated 21 September 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement of Sergei Martynov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belarus and Chairman of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia. The statement was approved by all States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 90 and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Andrei **Dapkiunas**

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Annex to the letter dated 21 September 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Statement by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization

The States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) are, as a matter of principle, consistent supporters of the adoption of effective international measures aimed at actively combating the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones.

We welcome the establishment of a new nuclear-weapon-free zone and the efforts made by the Central Asian States, four of which are States members of CSTO, to establish such a zone.

The signing of the Treaty on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia is a significant contribution to ensuring global and regional security and nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, which is particularly relevant in the context of the global campaign against terrorism and prevention of the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction by terrorists.

There is no doubt that the establishment of a new nuclear-weapon-free zone will also help strengthen the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and will give new impetus to negotiations within the framework of the United Nations on the entire range of nuclear non-proliferation issues.

We believe that only joint, consistent and persistent efforts can prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. In this connection, we call upon all countries to intensify and consolidate their efforts, both within the framework of the United Nations and within other international organizations, to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.